

The monthly bulletin of the
Bar Hill Residents Association,
distributed to all residents

New Residents

We welcome this month:

Mr. and Mrs. Kean, 8 Robin Close.

PLAYGROUP'S EASTER FAIR

*** SATURDAY, 3rd APRIL at the School, from 3 p.m.

Attractions include: Home-made Easter eggs; home preserves; glove puppets; grand raffle, Art and Handicrafts stall, side-shows, children's Easter hat competitions, and so on. Everyone is invited, and an enjoyable afternoon is guaranteed.

Jumble Stall

Please save your jumble for the Playgroup's Jumble Stall: we shall be selling jumble in Cambridge market on Thursday, 29th April, and collecting anything you can give us during the earlier part of that week.

Danger

Both the Developers and the Parish Council have asked us to make the following appeal to parents: please keep your children away from building sites in the Village, i.e. on Phases 2B and 6. Quite apart from the damage which has already been caused in these and the industrial areas, there is a very real danger of injury to children from equipment, manholes, and building materials such as bricks and planks.

May Newsletter

We regret that for reasons beyond our control the next Newsletter may well not appear on time. The Editor would be very grateful to hear from anyone who would be prepared to help with the typing of the May issue; contact: John Wills, 45 Acorn Avenue, Crafts Hill 551.

Bar Hill Village Red Cross Group?

Your village comes within the territory of the Swavesey Division of the Cambs. and Isle of Ely Branch. As a village planned to be quite large, it should have its own Red Cross service, and not have to rely upon that of other villages.

Voluntary membership is open to anyone and the choice of service to the community is yours. For example, you may choose to become qualified in first aid, and/or nursing to become a VAD, wear uniform and serve in hospital or first aid stations, in which case allow 24 hours spread over 12 evenings (one each week) for training each year; or you may choose only to help in ways which require no formal training, and six hours spread over a year would be sufficient.

Consider the advantages of having even an elementary knowledge of first aid and nursing your sick at home, especially in a rural district.

Whether or not you become a member, Red Cross training is available at elementary, certificate, and advanced levels either in your village (if there is a group of at least eight adults), or at our training centre at Swavesey Village College, or otherwise by arrangement with individuals. FOR THOSE OF YOU WILLING TO HELP RED CROSS BUT HAVING ONLY ABOUT TWO HOURS A YEAR TO GIVE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SELL FLAGS AND COLLECT FOR OUR FUNDS IN YOUR VILLAGE DURING 'NATIONAL RED CROSS WEEK', MAY 2nd - MAY 8th, THIS YEAR?

The Divisional Director, Mr. L. Aubrey Hughes, 107 Rampton Road, Willingham, Cambs., tel. Willingham 493, would be glad to hear from you.

Brownies

The 1st Bar Hill Brownie Guide Pack wish to thank all who helped to make their coffee morning a success. A total of £8.80 was raised.

Football - Bar Hill Primary School XI

In a recent match versus Elsworth (away), although losing 5-0 at half time, the Bar Hill School XI fought back magnificently in the second half to earn a 5-5 draw. Very well done, boys. Goal scorers:

Kevin Stewart; Andrew Norton; Simon Strachan; Russell Barnes; (1 own goal).

National Gardens Scheme 1971

Local gardens which will be open to the public during April are:

Sunday, 18th, 2 - 7 p.m.

Fellows' Garden, King's College. Admission 5p.

The Grange, Great Shelford. Teas. Adults 10p, children 5p.

Sunday 25th, 2 - 7 p.m.

Hatley Park, Hatley St. George, Sandy. Teas. Adults 10p, children 5p.

Bar Hill Parish Council

Report of recent Council meetings:

Footpaths Mr. Pearson of the Grange, Lolworth, has no objection to residents walking the path to Lolworth, but he did point out that because of ploughing and growing crops the path was unwalkable for much of the year. The County Surveyor has agreed to erect a signpost at the Bar Hill end of the footpath. Mr. Brown has agreed to level the Bar Hill section of the bridle path to Dry Drayton.

A604 Responsibility for the A604 is being transferred to the Department of the Environment. The Parish Council is pressing for the work on the junction to be done in advance of the general improvement.

Mr. Brown has agreed to paint white the wooden kerb around the traffic island at the junction to give clearer definition at night.

Parish Council Election This will be held in May 1971 to elect 5 Councillors. Details will be published later on the notice board.

Street and Path Lighting The Developers have agreed to light those paths which will be taken over by the County Council, i.e. those paths which link residential areas with the centre of the Village. Should any street and path lights fail, would you please contact your nearest Parish Councillor, who has a supply of "complaint cards" ready for despatch to Eastern Electricity.

Dogs A plea to dog owners. Please try to prevent your dogs fouling the paths and play areas.

Children playing on building sites The dangers of this practice were raised at the last meeting. It was felt that parents could do most to reduce this danger by cautioning their children.

Swavesey V.C. Swimming Pool The Council donated £10 towards the Fund to expand the facilities which are used by Bar Hill residents during the summer months.

A. Parrott (Clerk)

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28th April at 7.30 p.m. in the School hall. Among matters to be discussed is the Village Green. All residents are welcome to attend.

Horticultural Society

This month's meeting will be held at 8.00 on Tuesday, 6th April in the School, and will be a teach-in on 'Lawns - their preparation and maintenance' by Mr. Ellis, Mr. Neill and Mr. Page, three of the committee members. Questions will be answered afterwards and refreshments will be served. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Following complaints to a committee member by the owners of the D.I.Y. shop, two officers of the Society discussed their grievances with them. The owners explained that since the shop had been opened business had not been up to expectations and that for the past 12 months the closing of the shop had been seriously considered. Gardening requisites had been stocked at the request of the Villagers and it was the last straw that this trade would be taken by the Horticultural Society. The committee representatives explained that the Horticultural Society would stimulate interest in gardening in the Village

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(Horticultural Society, contd.)

mutual advantage. In view of the problems facing the D.I.Y. shop the Society has offered to restrict its range of stock during its first year until the increasing population in the Village helps to resolve the trading position.

Allotments One of the aims of the Society is to cater for the needs of those requiring allotments and ^{we} will be putting a request to the Parish Meeting this month to provide some. In order to gauge the possible demand the committee is compiling a list of those interested.

Gardening Hints April is a very busy month in the garden with plants starting to grow - but still beware of frost.

Shrubs Feed with Growmore (2 oz. per sq. yd.) raked in around the base. Evergreen shrubs such as Arbutus, Laurel and Box can be pruned.

Lawns Aerate, if not already done in March, and rake with a proper lawn rake; treat with a hormone weed killer towards the end of the month if necessary.

Roses If you have not pruned your roses, do so as soon as possible. Feed with a proprietary rose food, such as Fisons Rose Food or PBI Top Rose.

Flowers Finish off planting out herbaceous plants. You can start planting annual bedding plants towards the end of the month if the weather is suitable. Sow seed of hardy annuals now and towards the end of the month sow the seed of half-hardy annuals.

Bulbs Plant spring bulbs (gladioli, anemones, dutch iris, etc.)

Vegetables All kinds of salad vegetables (lettuce, red beet, spring onions, etc.) can be sown in April. The first sowing of runner beans may be made towards the end of the month.

Letters

The Editor

Dear Sir,

In reply to the appeal from Mrs. P. A. Thrift last month, I would like to apologise for any inconvenience our Alsatian has caused. Her illicit roving has now stopped, but I would like to assure any mothers that don't know already, that she does not snap; and we, like the dog, do not snap either, and would much prefer any complaints to come direct to us, and not via the Newsletter, whose aim is "fostering community spirit".

Yours, etc.,

Christine M. Couzens (Mrs.)

25 Almond Grove.

Dear Sir,

A printed letter from JWB dropped through the letter box at dead of night. Its contents were disturbing as was the fact that, until I read it, I had no idea that the shops were struggling for survival.

Now, of course, I am a relative newcomer and it takes time to assimilate the vast amount of information, speculation and rumour about the Village and its affairs past and present. However, I feel that regular meetings of the Residents' Association (not just the Committee) would go a long way to fostering a greater sense of community and would provide the opportunity for ALL of us to be made aware of and to discuss such vital matters as that raised in JWB's letter.

Turning to that letter for a moment, and assuming it to be neither hoax nor advertising gimmick, a number of thoughts occur to me. Unaware till now that it was not 'the done thing' to shop at the Supermarket, my family has been spending there each week considerably more than the sum suggested by JWB - though not, I admit, at 10 o'clock on a Friday morning - and we are well satisfied.

The other shops are clearly in a different position. There is a limit to the number of papers, magazines, sweets and so on that any family needs and therefore the turnover in a shop such as 'Forbuys' is necessarily limited in a small community. Similarly, very few villages as small as ours, however long established, boast such luxuries as a 'Do-it-yourself' shop or one that specialises in television and electrical goods. Don't misunderstand me - I find all these shops give excellent service, and there is a helpful and friendly attitude to the customer, but all this is of little avail if there are simply not enough customers in the village and it is not in our power to change this state of affairs.

Similarly it is not in our power to make the shopping area itself more attractive. Am I alone in finding it not merely uninviting but, in a strange way, forbidding, with most of its shops shut away in a little arcade behind the privacy of closed doors?

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(Letters, continued)

My last point is this: JWB feels we are in imminent danger of finding ourselves living in a field. I contend that this would be preferable to our present position of living not in a village, but on a building site. I know that there is a great deal of building going on, but surely a better impression would be created by altering the wording on some of the signs and hoardings. Visitors are still commanded to "call at the Sales Office before entering Site". My final plea, then, is for an objective examination of the 'public face' of our village as seen from the Huntingdon Road. It may be that a face-lift would improve our image!

Yours faithfully,

R. E. Smith,
12 Almond Grove.

Fellow Residents,

I would like to point out that many housewives get a set amount for housekeeping so cannot afford to shop continually at Keymarkets where prices keep going up, plus the fact that housewives know they can buy cheaper in town, even some husbands have been known to take a list and come home with the shopping (a) because they work in or near town and (b) because they know it costs less.

I myself, as I am sure many others, have no wish to live in the middle of a field but surely this is due to the Development Association; we have now lived here for three and a half years and the village from the time we moved in should have been completed within five years, yet anyone can see there is still so much to do besides building new houses, new factories, maintenance, landscaping, amenities, one could go on for ever; there is also the matter of the television aerial which has never really been right, and which we seem to be having so much trouble with lately; and we can only hope that these matters will be sorted out so that in time Bar Hill will be a complete village and not just some houses and shops in the middle of a field!

M. Bramwell (Mrs.)
2 Robin Close.

Dear Sir,

Different people have naturally reacted very differently to JWB's letter, claiming to detect a wide range of (conflicting) attitudes and motives. However, everyone I have spoken to about it expressed the same initial surprise, and in most cases concern, and this is surely what the writer intended: at least we can't say we weren't warned of the possibility of the shops closing.

How much we ourselves can do to prevent their closing is another matter: what the shops need above all is many more regular customers, and only the Developers can attract these by providing many more houses. Meanwhile, perhaps, JWB has made us stop and think: if we do spend a little extra per head in Village shops, rather than in town, this may not be enough to save them from financial failure, and there is nothing more to be said; on the other hand, evidence of a little more good will might just encourage traders to hang on a little longer, by which time the Village might have expanded significantly. It seems worth a try, anyway.

All this JWB has already pointed out: I am only repeating his theme, in different words, because I think it makes sense - in terms of self-interest if nothing else - and it would be a pity if the main points were overlooked through indignation over minor details. It was a brave initiative for a private individual to take, and JWB deserves thanks for provoking thought and discussion, at some personal cost.

Finally, the cloak-and-dagger accusations are a bit unfair: "JWB, Acorn Avenue" is not hard for someone determined to trace, and modesty seems the least sinister and most likely explanation.

Yours faithfully,
Gillian Wills,
45 Acorn Avenue.

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